

From Louisville To the SEA

A Soldier's Diary of the Civil War.

By LYMAN S. WIDNEY, 34th Ill.

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Nov. 27 our division, with Baird's, was appointed to protect the left flank of our supply train from an expected attack by Wheeler from that quarter.

Carlin's Division followed the main road with the weapons, and the Twentieth Corps proceeded along the Georgia Central Railroad, destroying as it went, as was evident to us by the ever-recurring column of smoke and fire, and the ing pace with our march of 16 miles.

On the 28th we made a short march of nine miles to the bank of the river opposite Louisville, where we waited for a short time for the completion of a bridge, after which we crossed and occupied the town. A portion was in ashes when we entered, having been fired, so it was, in an exasperated soldier's opinion, a waste of time to go to the town.

We remained there all the following day waiting for the Twentieth Corps to pass.

At an early hour a call came to our corps to assist Kilpatrick in a fight with Wheeler, and Gen. Davis sent Baird's Division for the purpose; but Kilpatrick had already extricated himself from his difficulties, and later in the day came in and pitched his camp near our line. He attempted to release our prisoners at Millen, but encountered Wheeler at Waynesboro, and also learned there that our prisoners had been removed two days previous.

Shortly after dark the jail, near which our regiment was encamped, was discovered to be on fire, and the flames soon warmed up Gen. Davis to such a degree, that he sent his Adjutant-General over to investigate. Our Colonel resented the charge that we had fired the jail, and sharp words passed between him and the adjutant, who was back in high dudgeon.

Gen. Davis then summoned the combatants and delivered a lecture, the purport of which we did not learn. Neither did we discover who fired the jail. No officer in Sherman's army was more opposed to unauthorized burning or unnecessary foraging than Gen. Davis. Such was his disposition also when he was our Division commander, and he was more restricted to camp when other commands were foraging with a free hand. This quality drew from Gen. Sherman the statement that he must have been in the Division the credit of the best order during our movement through East Tennessee, when long marches and the necessity for foraging to the right and left gave some reason for his criticism.

We left Louisville in the direction of Millen, Dec. 1. Our division, having charge of the wagons, moved only eight miles during the day, which gave us plenty of time to forage; but the troops had taken the best of everything, so the next day our march decided to send its representatives on in time to get our share of the more appetizing articles of food, only to be secured by our cavalry.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH REBEL CAVALRY. This duty fell to myself and a messenger, and having been taught from childhood that the enemy's cavalry was a great worm, we determined to leave camp at the first streak of dawn and get well ahead of our advance. We walked rapidly through a wooded country, three miles, without halting, and just as the sun was rising emerged into a clearing extending two miles farther, with only one house in sight, and that was in the hands of a rebel force. We were aware of this, and were much to our regret.

We hurried on, hoping to overtake them, but they left the house a quarter of a mile ahead of us, and soon after we reached the clearing, we heard a dozen or more musket shots, and two members of the party came rushing out, exclaiming that the rebels had been fired on and three had been shot. They further declared that the woods were full of rebel cavalry.

We now considered ourselves in the predicament, five miles ahead of our army and almost face to face with the enemy. The open road stretching back two miles disclosed to our anxious gaze no sign of the coming of our reinforcements, but it was dotted with groups of foragers, and as we moved on, and these were to be our reinforcements, provided the enemy would give sufficient time for them to arrive. Strange to relate, we were not molested, and when our number had grown to 50 or more, we formed ourselves into a skirmish-line, and without commanders or commands, plunged recklessly into the wood. A few minutes brought us to the dead bodies of three missing foragers, and a little farther on we found the smoking embers of camp fires and scattered remains of corn, where horses had been fed over night. Evidently a regiment had bivouacked there.

The wood proved to be but a narrow belt, and when we reached the other edge we saw the enemy waiting for us in another clearing, but we prudently waited for our advance guard to come up an hour later, when our numbers being greatly increased by new arrivals of foragers, we reinforced the guard and dispersed the enemy, so that our column proceeded without a halt. We now turned our attention to foraging, and when at the close of the day our detachment of two laid the trophies of a successful foray at the feet of our messmates in camp, we found them overjoyed because of our return, as they had heard just enough of our encounter to believe that the worms had caught the early birds.

GUARDING THE WAGON TRAIN. We halted near Buckhead Creek, a march of 11 miles.

It was discovered that Wheeler was paying close attention to our left flank, with the evident purpose of finding a weak or unguarded opening to our supply train.

Our brigade was continued on the 2d in charge of the train, and for the better security of our wagon train, a single file on either side of them at some distance from the road, but always keeping the train in plain view. Our march was a short one, only six miles, and we had to wait for a pontoon to be thrown over a stream.

We halted near Lumpkin Station, on the Augusta & Savannah Railroad, about 10 miles north of Millen.

The next morning our brigade was relieved of the care of the train and placed in advance. We traveled the railroad six miles below Waynesboro, in which direction we heard artillery and musketry firing, but as we turned our backs to it and marched away we soon ceased to hear it.

The occasion was an attack by Kilpatrick, assisted by Baird's Division, on Wheeler at Waynesboro, in which the latter was driven from the town and across Briar Creek.

With a good road and fair weather we easily made a march of 15 miles, and halted in good time to go foraging, but we were not to go far from camp, as Wheeler's cavalry was hovering close to our flank.

Our regiment was posted on picket and instructed to be very watchful.

by the progress of our columns on the right.

Crossing the Ebenezer next day for the third time, we proceeded only four miles, when we halted about noon for the remainder of the day.

A cold blast down upon us from the northwest, greatly to our discomfort, but we refrained from complaint when we considered how we had been blessed with fine weather during our entire trip, excepting only two or three days of rain.

"UNCLE BILLY." A short march on Dec. 30 of five miles brought us to the Charleston & Savannah Railroad within 10 miles of the city of Savannah. We accomplished 19 miles, while the Twentieth Corps passed on ahead.

When first we reached the railroad our regiment, being near the advance, halted at one of the redoubts built to protect the road.

There I picked up a Savannah newspaper of December, 1861, in which the first item to attract my attention ran in this wise:

"Gen. W. T. Sherman, commanding the Federal army in Kentucky, is decided to be insane."



"HULL SOME MORE RICE, TOM!" THUNDERED IN HIS EAR FROM EARLY MORN TILL BEDTIME.

it ready for us to cross early next morning.

We were now marching directly toward the Savannah River, which we reached, near Hudson's Ferry on the 6th, after a march of 18 miles.

Like DeSoto on the bank of the newly-discovered Mississippi, we rejoiced that a broad river was before us, upon whose friendly bosom we might launch as many rafts as required and float down to the sea, if other means of transportation should fail.

Next morning we turned our faces toward Savannah, marching down the right bank of the river at a lively pace for 15 miles, which brought us to Ebenezer Creek, where we had to await the completion of a pontoon bridge.

We crossed the next day about noon to the little town of Ebenezer, where stood one of the oldest churches in America. It was used by Gen. Greene during the Revolution as a hospital, and bore on its front the date of 1769.

We moved four miles to the Ebenezer River, where we had to wait for the pontoons to be transferred from the crossing at the creek.

While we were lying idly under the trees we were startled by the shriek of a Yankee trick they steamed rapidly up the river, whence they came, after three rounds of their two-gun battery, leaving a large but disappointed audience to lament the short duration of their visit. After the gunboat had disappeared, a party of our foragers crossed the river into South Carolina, and captured a rebel Major and private, together with some mailbags and several fine horses.

During the afternoon we crossed the Ebenezer River and reconnoitered five miles of the road to Savannah, discovering no hostile force, but finding the road in places obstructed by felled timber and short lines of earthworks intended to shelter a few guns, so placed as to command stretches of the road where the sentries were impossible on either side made so by fallen timber. These defenses proved useless, because they were flanked.

Savannah was now in plain view, and the formidable works which prevented us from entering the city. These were only half a mile away from us, and apparently well supplied with artillery of large and small caliber, which forced us to keep clear of the roadway and seek shelter in the dense timber that bordered it. There our brigade was comparatively safe, as the trees were so thick that cannon balls could not penetrate and an impassable swamp separated our pickets.

Our first appearance on the scene was greeted by a solid shot from a large fort on the Georgia Central Railroad, which bounded over the road and struck the road behind us and bounded over the 11th Ohio, immediately in our rear. We bowed our acknowledgments and promptly stepped into the woods, where it was safer. Thereafter we kept the roadway clear of our presence, since a very small squad was sufficient at any time to "start the ball rolling."

Wheeler's Division, a quarter of a mile to our right, was not so favorably situated as we were. We could see their intrenchments stretching across an open field exposed to lively and frequent bursts of cannonading, which kept our men closely under cover. Our artillery was so much inferior to the enemy's in number and weight that we could offer no effective resistance to their guns and so had to submit patiently to bombardment during the 10 days that we confronted their works.

Our division possessed only four field guns, while the enemy had 20 mounted, and kept themselves in good practice with many varieties of missiles, such as solid shot, case shot, grape shot, canister, shrapnel and shells, elongated and round, percussion and fuse. This variety kept the affair from becoming monotonous.

The approaches to the city consisted of five causeways, formed by the two railroads and three wagon roads, and these could be swept by the enemy's guns. Between these causeways were swamps, in which the enemy's musketry was very effective. Gen. Davis, however, was so anxious to try speedy conclusions with the enemy that he selected four points in front of our corps and urged Gen. Sherman to permit us to make an assault. Other corps commanders, also, recommended favorable points in their front, but Sherman prudently decided to await the slower but less bloody result of starving out the garrison.

While we of the Fourteenth and Seventeenth Corps, occupying the middle portion of our lines of investment, were pushed as close to the enemy's fortifications as the intricate nature of the country would permit, and submitted supinely to spasmodic rounds of variegated shot and shell, the Fifteenth and Twentieth Corps were more actively employed. The latter, with its flank on the Savannah

River, captured one of the river islands and the point of land opposite in South Carolina, thereby preventing any craft reaching the city with supplies. The enemy attempted to do so under convoy of gunboats, but were driven back with the loss of one boat.

The Fifteenth Corps, with its flank on Ogeechee River, assaulted and captured Fort McAllister, which blocked the entrance to the river from Ogeechee Sound, where a fleet awaited us with food and clothing.

But these supplies still failed to reach us because of obstructions in the river and the lack of light draft boats. Hence we were reduced to the necessity of gathering rice in the sheaf from the fields and thrashing out the grain by hand, which proved to be a tedious process. After separation from the straw the hulls still held on to the grains with such tenacity that they had to be placed in a sack and then to be thrown into a dish containing unbulled that they had to be picked out before the rice was ready for boiling.

The contraband cook of our mess, picked up in the fields of Georgia, was required to the task of preparing enough rice for us in this manner, so we had to assist, but with such poor grace that our appetites outstripped our hands, and no sooner had we eaten our dish than the order was forthcoming: "Hull some more rice, Tom." Then our contraband would complain that his master had not required such long hours of his services, but he did not have four masters like us to thunder in his ear from early morn till bedtime: "Hull some more rice, Tom!"

He began to sigh for the "fresh-potatoes of the plantation, for having no solid food of the rice would not stick to his ribs more than it would to ours, and with the supply limited by his disinclination to work, and our ditty, we all felt that we were a day behind with our meals, as for instance we ate on Sunday the meals belonging to Saturday.

HARDEE EVACUATES SAVANNAH.

At last our patience was rewarded. On the night of Dec. 20 Hardee slipped out of the city, leaving only 10 miles to the Union Causeway—leaving his guns in position to threaten us to the last; but as soon as we found that a broad river was before us, upon whose friendly bosom we might launch as many rafts as required and float down to the sea, if other means of transportation should fail.

The latter expected a repetition of Atlanta, and in order to divert such a calamity proceeded with profound earnestness to evacuate the city.

Hardee made a last-ditch stand, explaining that they had been opposed to Hardee making any resistance and begged the permission of their city from the Union Causeway. Much as they feared Sherman, who had secured the country to the right and left of the marching columns, sweeping down upon the city, and with the fury and destructiveness of a whirlwind, leaving nothing behind that could be used or eaten by a great army.

Sherman recalled the liberty and license he had granted them for the season and transform them by a word into obedient, orderly soldiers? Did not their own troops who came through with a good deal of him become insubordinate on the night of the evacuation, breaking open and robbing stores and even threatening to burn the city? If the Yankees were to do a little worse than these, the margin between safety and destruction was perilously narrow, and the citizens of Savannah had sufficient cause for alarm.

An agreeable surprise, then, for the people of Savannah, and for the army, was the order to evacuate the city. The same men who had raised every barnyard they encountered from Atlanta to Savannah now approached the city with a different air, and inquired, "Have you anything to sell?" and when answered in the affirmative eagerly exchanged his greenbacks for eatables at fancy prices.

Application soon gave way to the spirit of barter in the minds of the citizens, and their surplus stocks of rice found a ready market at 25 to 50 cents per quart, and other provisions at proportionate prices. Our mess considered it most fortunate that we were able to purchase a bushel of rice for \$5.

The army had no opportunity to spend any of the pay received just before leaving Atlanta, and rations being very short, we were not disposed to haggle about prices.

Visiting the wharves of the city two weeks after our entrance, I saw 1,000 citizens and soldiers, more or less, engaged in speculation. A barrel of apples bought of some vendor for \$20 was retailed to the soldiers in half an hour for \$75. A cheese at \$40 retailed at \$200. Being myself a purchaser of a portion I watched the disposal of this cheese with great interest. Two soldiers and I in particular. The first cuts this cheese were of reasonable size, considering the price, but as the crowd of hungry soldiers grew larger, instead of making the price advance, the vendors diminished the size of the slice with each additional cut without diminishing the price, until the last piece

was a mere scrap.

INVESTMENT OF SAVANNAH. On Dec. 11 our division was moved into position within four miles of the city, relieving a division of the Seventh Corps, which moved to our right. The Twentieth Corps formed on our left, with its flank resting at the river. Our brigade occupied the space between the Charleston & Savannah and Georgia Central Railroads, which joined in one track a quarter of a mile nearer the city.

Savannah was now in plain view, and the formidable works which prevented us from entering the city. These were only half a mile away from us, and apparently well supplied with artillery of large and small caliber, which forced us to keep clear of the roadway and seek shelter in the dense timber that bordered it. There our brigade was comparatively safe, as the trees were so thick that cannon balls could not penetrate and an impassable swamp separated our pickets.

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was not much thicker than a sheet of paper. Biscuits not much larger than walnuts sold readily at 50 cents per dozen.

During the first week of our occupation Gen. Sherman reviewed the several corps in succession, our first place on Dec. 27. Gen. Sherman, on his horse in front of his headquarters, on one of the principal streets.

The citizens attended these reviews, many through curiosity to see those famous marching columns whose resistless progress through the center of the Confederacy had excited their wonder and apprehension. The magnitude and unexpectedness of this achievement suggested to their fevered imagination serried ranks of an unfamiliar race of men vaguely called Westerners, giant in stature, fierce in countenance and savage in nature, with the reckless turbulence of the frontier and the revengeful spirit of the Indian.

My part in these reviews being that of spectator, an opportunity was afforded me to mingle with the citizens and listen to their comments.

A conversation by two business men may be cited as a sample of the prevailing sentiment, as follows:

"These soldiers seem to act very peacefully. I have not heard of them doing anything but yet."

"Well, yes; they have conducted themselves very well, excepting the first day."

"Oh, of course, there were some violations of orders then, but the damage was small compared to what our soldiers did."

"Yes, that's true; the cavalry did act in a shameful manner. They are a lawless set, and the liquor they got made them worse."

"Did you notice their officers appeared to have no control, and some of them acted as badly as the men, for they were drunk, too, and encouraged their men to break open stores and houses and steal."

"Yes, I noticed that, and my opinion is they are worse than the Yankees, who steal from their enemies, but our fellows rob their own people."

One bright Sunday, in company with two comrades, I visited the Episcopal Church, where the wealth and fashion of the city resided. Many well-dressed ladies and a considerable number of well-dressed men were present, but the larger portion of the congregation was composed of negroes.

We noticed three Generals and many officers of lower rank, and also several naval officers. The men in the ranks were well represented, and altogether the pews were filled to their capacity. From our seats in the gallery we looked down upon a striking combination of colors produced by the varied hues of the ladies' costumes and the blue uniforms of the military. It reminded me of my comrades of a cabbage patch interspersed with blooming flowers.

No congregation more quiet or attentive than the assembly there.

The most remarkable feature of the service was not what we heard, but what we did not hear—the prayer for the President of the United States, but as the Rector also omitted the prayer for the President of the Confederate States, we concluded that his purpose was to let the Lord decide, and as we felt sure that Father Abraham would receive the blessing, we held our peace.

When the collection plates were passed around they returned to the chancel heavily laden with greenbacks and fractional currency, contributed by the soldiers.

About the middle of January, 1865, we noticed the preliminary movements of a new campaign—camps suddenly vacated, troops marching to the river and crossing into South Carolina, transports arriving with troops from Virginia to relieve us from the duty of garrisoning Savannah, and the orders to our corps to be ready to march in three days.

Finally, on the morning of Jan. 20, just 30 days after our entrance, we formed our ranks in the midst of our dismantled camps, fully equipped for the march, and awaited the tap of the drum to plunge once again into the heart of a hostile country and blaze a destructive path from the sea to the Gulf.

(The end.)

CANCER.

Recent Discoveries Made for Its Cure.

Dr. Benjamin F. By, the Cancer specialist of Indianapolis, Ind., emphatically denies that the recent discoveries made by some New York specialists of the cause of cancer, had anything to do with his researches. He states that he has cured cancer, and the doctor's ground for denial is well founded, for the fact that his discovery was reported before the New York doctor's researches. The Indianapolis doctor has recently published a new book on the subject, and says he is going to send out the entire first edition to all those afflicted where their names and addresses are furnished.

Who Was He?

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: The 16th Ohio, as well as the 20th Ind., had a Co. Q. It came about in this way: The non-veterans of the 38th Ohio were placed in our regiment while the veterans were at home on furlough. This was in the early Spring of 1864, while we were lying in Ringgold. With the 38th Ohio men came to us there were about 120 recruits at that time not yet assigned to companies. They were placed on the left of our regiment and dubbed "Co. Q," and Lieut. Allen placed in command.

There was one conspicuous man in said Co. Q. He was unknown to all the men, and it is of him I inquire.

The first time he was put on picket at the front of the "back fence line." Having been ordered to picket, he stood in the ground, he left fastened under the hammer of his gun a letter to our Colonel, Geo. T. Perkins, explaining his actions and the reasons for the same. It was my understanding that he was one of Gen. Morgan's Captains, who had escaped from prison at the time the General did and took advantage of the enlistment then in progress; had volunteered, received a good bounty, a month's pay, clothing, equipments and transportation to a point within six or seven miles of the rebel army, which he wished to reach. When reading Morgrove's "Back to Old Kentucky" this man came to my mind, and I asked again, Who was he? JOHN E. WILSON, Co. B, 16th Ohio, Marshalltown, Iowa.

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The Big Hat Brigade.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: The Iron Brigade, or the "Big Hat Brigade of the West," was organized by Rufus King, of Wisconsin, and comprised the 2d, 6th and 7th Wis., 19th Ind., 24th Mich. and 4th U. S. Battery. They were the only original troops that wore the big hat in the brigade. Col. Cutler was next in command. In October Gen. Meredith, of the 19th Ind., was promoted to Brigadier and took command. In June, '64, Col. E. S. Bragg was promoted, and took command.

In February, '64, Col. Bragg was promoted, and took command. In June, '64, Col. E. S. Bragg was promoted, and took command.

When John A. Kellogg was brevetted, and commanded the three Wisconsin regiments until they were mustered out, Col. H. Richardson was also brevetted Brigadier, and was consolidated with the 9th Wis. The three Wisconsin regiments were the first and last of the old brigade. The officers who commanded, or were brevetted, were as follows:

Rufus King, Col. Cutler, 6th Wis.; John Gibbons, 4th U. S. Battery; Sol Meredith, 19th Ind.; Col. R. Davis, 6th Wis.; Col. J. H. Meritt, 24th Mich.; Col. J. A. Kellogg, 4th U. S. Battery; Col. J. A. Kellogg, 4th U. S. Battery; Col. J. A. Kellogg, 4th U. S. Battery.

This is the history of the Iron Brigade, as it is now called, and think it correct in the main. We never considered any other troops as belonging to the brigade, as their positions were merely temporary.—EDWARD N. TRUMBULL, Co. K, 8th U. S., North Freedom, Wis.

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We will send four full quart bottles of Hayner's Seven-Year-Old Double Copper Distilled Rye Whisky for \$3.20, Express Prepaid. We ship in plain packages—no marks to indicate contents. When you get it and test it, if it is not satisfactory return it at our expense and we will return your \$3.20.

Our Distillery was established in 1866. We have enjoyed 33 years' continual growth until we now have one hundred and sixty-five thousand customers throughout the United States who are using Hayner's Whisky, which is an evidence of its merit. We give you absolutely pure Whisky at the lowest possible cost. Such Whisky as we offer for \$3.20 cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than \$5.00.

Reference: State Nat'l Bank, St. Louis, Third Nat'l Bank, Dayton, or any of the Express Companies. Orders for Hayner's Whisky, St. Louis, Mo., or at least one full quart for \$3.20, freight prepaid.

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We have bought a Million Havana Cigars and have them for sale at 2.95 per 100. They are the best made in Cuba, and are sold in plain packages, no marks to indicate contents. When you get it and test it, if it is not satisfactory return it at our expense and we will return your \$3.2